

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01507 210932Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 /061 W  
-----069239 210944Z /15

O 210904Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2275  
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NL  
SUBJECT: ERW CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) STATE 71465, B) USNATO 2875, C) THE HAGUE 1482 (NOTAL)

1. DUTCH PRESS MORNING MARCH 21 GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO  
CANCELLATION OF ERW CONSULTATIONS, SPECULATING THAT GROWING  
DISAGREEMENT WITHIN NATO HAS CAUSED WASHINGTON TO RECONSIDER  
ITS APPROACH.

2. AS WE ANTICIPATED, DUTCH PRESS LOST NO TIME IN FINDING  
OUT ABOUT THE CANCELLATION OF THE ERW CONSULTATIONS IN  
BRUSSELS THIS WEEK. THEIR JOB WAS MADE EASY BY MFA SPOKESMAN  
WHO, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, CONFIRMED THE POSTPONEMENT, ADDING  
THAT NO NEW DATE HAD BEEN SET. PRESS STORIES ARE TO THE  
EFFECT THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE POSTPONED AT US REQUEST, FOR  
TECHNICAL REASONS, WITH MENTION OF THE FACT THAT DEVELOPMENTS  
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ARE CLAIMING FULL ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT  
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01507 210932Z

CARTER AND USG THIS WEEK.

3. PRESS SPECULATES THAT REAL REASON IS THAT WASHINGTON WANTED  
MORE TIME BECAUSE OF GROWING DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.  
SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS SURMISE THAT WASHINGTON MAY COME UP WITH A  
NEW APPROACH TO AVOID DISAGREEMENT WITHIN NATO.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT GON POSITION WILL CONTINUE TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST, HOWEVER, TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO KEEP THE DUTCH FROM VEERING EVEN FURTHER AWAY. OUR CURRENT PRESS GUIDANCE (REF A) HAS BECOME ACADEMIC NOW THAT THE PRESS HERE HAS THE FULL STORY AND IS GIVING IT MAJOR COVERAGE. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT WOULD APPEAR DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE GON URGENTLY WITH RATIONALE FOR OUR DECISION TO POSTPONE AND AN INDICATION OF OUR FUTURE PLANS. GIVEN THE IRRESPONSIBLE WAY GON HAS HANDLED SENSITIVE INFORMATION, WE PLAN TO TAKE THIS UP AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.  
BROWN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ADVANCED WEAPONS, CONSULTANTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 21 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 71465, 78 USNATO 2875, 78 THE HAGUE 1482  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** MNUC, NL, NATO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014